

# News Release

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For Immediate Release

## **Gaviota boat hoist to get major upgrade**

Santa Barbara -- California State Parks officials announced today that the boat hoist facility at Gaviota State Park will receive a major upgrade in time for the 2006 summer boating season. The upgrade is being made possible by special emergency funding received from the California Department of Boating and Waterways (DBAW).

"This is a major development in our effort to provide safe and reliable hoist service to the many recreational boaters who rely on the Gaviota boat hoist for access to the Santa Barbara Channel," said Rich Rojas, State Park District Superintendent.

"With these special emergency funds from our partners at the Department of Boating and Waterways, we will be able to complete improvements to the hoist facility at least six to nine months earlier than we expected," Rojas continued.

The improvements to the hoist were recommended in a report produced by Northeast Engineers and Consultants, Inc., an engineering firm specializing in marine industrial facility design, following their extensive evaluation of the hoist facility in spring 2005. The report can be viewed on the Gaviota State Park page of the California State Parks website ([www.parks.ca.gov](http://www.parks.ca.gov)).

Following their study, NE&C recommended replacing the existing hoist with an American-made hoist, described as the largest and most rugged hoist available in the marketplace, most commonly selected for industrial applications where downtime is to be avoided at all cost.

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To further improve the new hoist's reliability and durability, because of the corrosive nature of the saltwater environment at the Gaviota pier, it will be sent to a corrosion specialist prior to its installation to be disassembled, sandblasted, and coated with an epoxy-based paint. In addition, the hoist enclosures and housings will be coated with epoxy based barrier paint or replaced with non-corrosive (canvas) covers.

The new hoist will also feature a faster chain speed, which will further improve reliability by reducing the possibility of damage caused by waves striking the boats as they are being raised or lowered.

In addition to replacing the current hoist, California State Parks will also upgrade the hoist's electrical system, making it simpler to maintain and extending its service life, and install new signage to improve the safety of boaters and other visitors on and around the pier and hoist.

Boaters who successfully complete a training program now being developed by the state parks department will be able to operate the new hoist by themselves by use of a proximity card system similar to ones now in use at some gas stations. This new system will allow boaters to use the hoist 7 days/week, ocean conditions permitting, a major improvement over the current system that restricts operation of the hoist to park staff and volunteers only 3-4 days/week.

California State Parks will solicit bids for the hoist upgrade in February and once a contractor has been selected, work is expected to be completed by June 2006.

"Our objective is to reopen the Gaviota hoist as soon as possible," Rojas said. "We appreciate the incredible patience that the boating public has shown as we've gone through this process, and we are confident that these improvements will result in a durable, more reliable and safer public boating facility," he emphasized.

A free update service is available to anyone wanting to get the latest progress of the hoist improvement work and information about the upcoming hoist-users training program, by sending an email to [gaviotahoistupdate@hotmail.com](mailto:gaviotahoistupdate@hotmail.com) or by calling (805) 968-1033.

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